

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of facilitating conversation between at least two dining partners, said method comprising:

a) providing a set of open-ended questions each being separately printed on a surface of a dining-piece;

5 b) distributing one or more of the dining-pieces to each dining partner;

~~c) having each dining-partner read aloud the open-ended question printed~~  
on their dining-piece;

d) having one of the dining partners answer aloud said open-ended question; and

10 e) engaging at least one other of the dining partners in open discussion of alternate answers to said question.

2. The method of generating conversation according to Claim 1 wherein said providing a set of open-ended questions each being separately printed on said ~~surface of said dining-piece includes printing each of said open-ended questions on an~~  
unexposed surface of said dining-piece.

3. The method of generating conversation according to Claim 1 wherein said distributing of one or more dining-pieces to each dining partner is randomly.

4. Conversation promoting apparatus comprising:  
a tableware piece having printed on one side a first phrase to which one or more dining partners answer to promote conversation between the dining partners.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein said first phrase is an open-ended question.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein said first phrase is a command.

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7. The apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein said tableware piece defines a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein said phrase is printed on said bottom surface of said tableware piece.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising a second tableware piece having printed on one side a second phrase, wherein said second phrase is different from said first phrase.

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9. A method of promoting discussion between dining partners, said method comprising:

- a) providing tableware having an open-ended question printed on a surface thereof;
- 5        b) distributing said tableware to at least one of the dining partners;
- c) having each dining partner read aloud said open-ended question printed on their respective tableware;
- d) having one of the dining partners answer aloud said open-ended question; and
- 10       e) engaging all of the dining partners in open discussion regarding said open-ended question.

10. The method of promoting discussion according to Claim 9 wherein said providing tableware having an open-ended question printed on said surface of said tableware includes printing each of said open-ended questions on an underside of said tableware.

11. A method of facilitating conversation between at least two dining partners, said method comprising:

- a) providing tableware having a command printed on a surface thereof;
  - b) distributing said tableware to at least one of the dining partners;
  - 5 c) having each dining partner read aloud the command printed on their dining-piece;
  - d) having one of the dining partners answer aloud the command; and
  - e) engaging at least one other of the dining partners in open discussion of
- ~~alternate responses to the command.~~

12. The method of generating conversation according to Claim 11 wherein said providing tableware having a command printed on a surface thereof includes printing each of said open-ended questions on an unexposed surface of said tableware.